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**Introduced by Senator La Malfa**

**(Coauthors: Senators Anderson, Berryhill, Blakeslee, Dutton, Emmerson, Gaines, Harman, Huff, Padilla, Runner, Strickland, Walters, and Wyland)**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bill Berryhill, Conway, Grove, Knight, Nielsen, Valadao, and Wagner)**

August 25, 2011

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 58—Relative to California’s initiative history.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 58, as introduced, La Malfa. California’s initiative history.

This measure would commemorate the 100-year anniversary of California’s initiative process.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 1911, the State Constitution of California was  
2 amended to establish an initiative process; and  
3 WHEREAS, The initiative process bestows the people with the  
4 ability to participate directly in the making of legislation; and  
5 WHEREAS, As described in The California Initiative Process:  
6 Background and Perspective by J. Fred Silva, the initiative process  
7 gives voters “a power equal to the power” of the legislative branch;  
8 and  
9 WHEREAS, The establishment of the initiative process in  
10 California comprised part of a movement toward direct democracy  
11 that was increasingly popular in the late 19th century; and  
12 WHEREAS, Initially, the State Constitution of California  
13 provided for a direct and indirect initiative process; and

1 WHEREAS, The direct initiative process bypasses the legislative  
2 process, permitting the people to directly enact statutory or  
3 constitutional law; and

4 WHEREAS, Section 8 of Article II of the State Constitution of  
5 California continues to provide for the direct initiative process;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The indirect initiative process permitted voters to  
8 submit a proposed measure to the Legislature for its passage; and

9 WHEREAS, The indirect initiative is no longer provided for by  
10 the State Constitution of California, having been removed in 1966;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The direct initiative process has been successfully  
13 utilized, enacting both statutory and constitutional provisions alike,  
14 directly reflecting the will of the voters; now, therefore, be it

15 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
16 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature celebrate the one-hundred  
17 year anniversary of California's initiative process; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
19 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.